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NEWS RELEASE

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**RECORDING ARTIST SENTENCED TO SEVEN
YEARS FOR METH CONSPIRACY**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JESUS TORRES GOMEZ, 31, a Fresno recording artist from Michoacan, Mexico, who goes by the professional name El Melon Norteño, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute approximately one-half pound of methamphetamine and three pounds of crystal methamphetamine. His brother and co-conspirator, BARDOMIO GARCIA GOMEZ, 25, also of Michoacan, Mexico, was sentenced on October 27, 2006 to five years in federal prison for participating in the conspiracy.

The case was the result of a six-month investigation by the Fresno Resident Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Fresno Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who prosecuted the case, the GOMEZ brothers admitted their guilt on December 12, 2005, before United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger. In their plea agreements and other documents filed with the court, both brothers acknowledged that on January 5, 2005, JESUS TORRES GOMEZ sold approximately one-half pound of methamphetamine to a confidential informant for \$3,000. Four days later, JESUS TORRES GOMEZ sold approximately three pounds of crystal methamphetamine to the informant for \$22,500. BARDOMIO GARCIA GOMEZ was present during the delivery, after he obtained the drug at the direction of his brother.

According to the DEA, crystal methamphetamine, or "ice," is a purer, more potent form of methamphetamine. Over the past ten years, its use has increased dramatically in much of the country, especially the Midwest. The name is derived from the drug's appearance, that of clear, large chunky crystals resembling rock candy.

JESUS TORRES GOMEZ has recorded several albums and sings at weddings and other events. His ranchero or norteño music has been promoted locally by Hispanic radio stations.

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